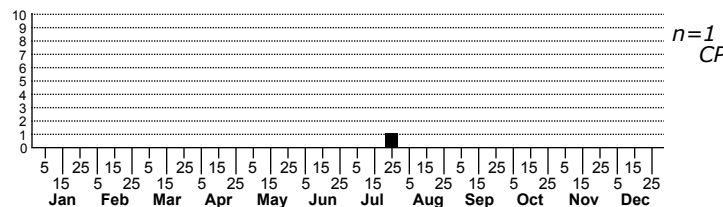
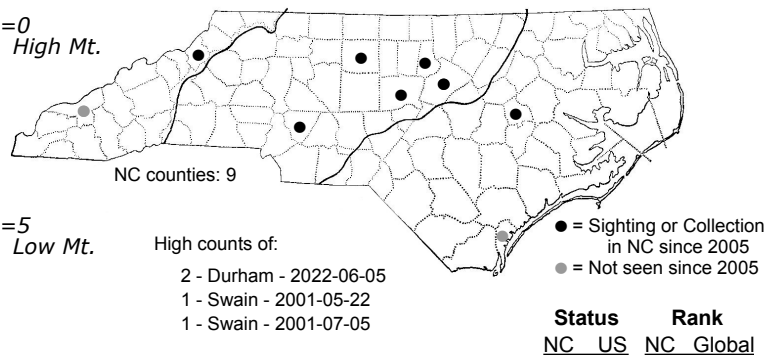
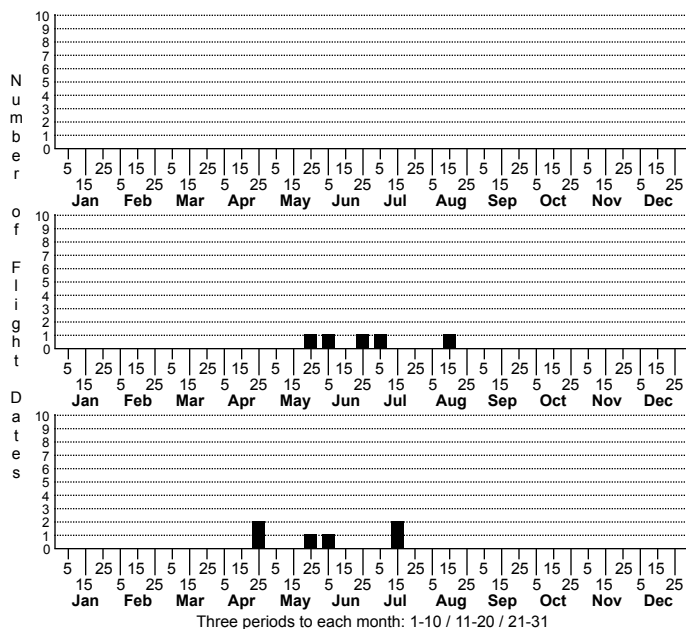


Framinghamia helvalis None



FAMILY: Crambidae SUBFAMILY: Pyraustinae TRIBE: Spilomelini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: *Framinghamia* is a monotypic, North American genus named after its type locality, Framingham, Massachusetts (Wikipedia, accessed 2022-08-01).

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS:

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Munroe (1951)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES:

ID COMMENTS: The ground color of this species varies from bright lemon yellow to dull tan or light reddish-brown and has dark brown to reddish-brown marks. The orbicular spot is prominent and consists of a thick, dark, circular mark that is pale in the middle rather than being a solid point. In addition, the discocellular bar is composed of a double curved line rather than a single lunule. The costa is shaded darker than the general ground color, and the antemedial line is excurved and often rather obscure. The postmedial line has a stepped pattern where it initially projects inward from, and perpendicular to, the inner margin, then angles outward at approximately 90 degrees to run parallel to the inner margin before angling again to run parallel to the outer margin to form an outward bulge with three teeth. The final section has three reduced teeth and runs from the bulge to the costa where it connects nearly perpendicular to the costa. The hindwing is paler than the forewing and lacks the antemedial line. A faint discocellular spot is usually evident, and a postmedial line is present that is similar to that on the forewing, with well-formed teeth on the bulge. The fringe of both wings is concolorous with the adjoining ground color, and there is a narrow dark terminal line on both wings.

Framinghamia helvalis is often confused with *Anania extricalis*, but the latter has an obscure orbicular spot, a lunate discocellular bar that is composed of a single bar, and a more rounded bulge in the postmedial line that typically has five rather than three outwardly projecting teeth.

DISTRIBUTION: *Framinghamia helvalis* is found in eastern and central North America, including portions of southern Canada (Saskatchewan; Manitoba; Ontario; Quebec; New Brunswick; Nova Scotia) and much of the eastern and south-central U.S. from Maine southward through southern Florida, and westward to Texas, southeastern New Mexico, eastern Oklahoma, Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota. As of 2023, we have scattered records from all three physiographic provinces.

FLIGHT COMMENT: The adults have been observed from March through October in different areas of the range, with the peak flight typically from June through August. As of 2023, our records extend from late-April through mid-August.

HABITAT: Most of our records are from wet to mesic hardwood forests, but also from semiwooded residential neighborhoods.

FOOD: The larvae specialize on willows and poplars, which are members of the Salicaceae (Forbes, 1923; Allyson, 1984; Godfrey et al., 1987; Prentice, 1966; Robinson et al., 2010; Eiseman, 2023 and BugGuide). The reported hosts include Eastern Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), Bigtooth Aspen (*P. grandidentata*), Lombardy Poplar (*P. nigra*), Quaking Aspen (*P. tremuloides*) and willows (*Salix* spp.), including Prairie Willow (*S. humilis* var. *tristis*), the introduced Purple-osier Willow (*S. purpurea*) and Black Willow (*S. nigra*; BugGuide). Eiseman (2023) reported this species using Black Willow in North Carolina.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights. We need more information on host use in North Carolina.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S2S4

STATE PROTECTION: Has no legal protection, although permits are required to collect it on state parks and other public lands.

COMMENTS: This species is uncommon in North Carolina. More information is needed on its preferred habitats, host plants, and distribution and abundance before we can accurately assess its conservation status.